

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 150260  
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

66011

DRAFTED BY: S/S-J CASWELL

APPROVED BY: S/S-O A OTTO

-----115298 281921Z /43

O 281907Z JUN 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO CINCEUR FOR POLAD IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 150260

EXDIS MILITARY HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOL TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO AMMAN BEIRUT CAIRO DTD  
28 JUN 1977 DTG O R 281428Z JUN 7 QTE

S E C R E T DAMASCUS 4046

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, MOPS, LE, IS, SY

SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON SITUATION

REF: STATE 148797

1. I MET WITH PRESIDENT ASSAD'S POLITICAL ADVISOR DAOUDI  
JUNE 28 TO DELIVER POINTS REFTEL. AFTER CONFIRMING THAT I  
HAD NOT MADE PARALLEL DEMARCHE AT FOREIGN MINISTRY, DAOUDI  
SAID THAT HE WOULD BRING OUR MESSAGE TO ATTENTION OF  
PRESIDENT ASSAD AND OBTAIN PRESIDENT'S ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS  
WE HAD POSED.

2. DAOUDI SAID HE PERSONALLY WAS NOT CAPABLE OF DELIVERING  
SECRET

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AUTHORITATIVE SYRIAN ASSESSMENT, BUT AS PRELIMINARY ANSWER,  
HE COULD CONFIRM THAT SYRIAN CONCERN OVER DEVELOPMENTS  
IN SOUTH LEBANON HAD HEIGHTENED OVER PAST FEW DAYS.  
HE ADVISED US TO KNOW THAT PRESIDENT ASSAD HAD BEEN URGING  
ALL SIDES TO REMAIN CALM SO THAT ISRAEL WOULD HAVE  
NO PRETEXT TO MAKE A MOVE IN THE AREA. SYRIA, DAOUDI  
CONTINUED, CONSIDERED ISRAEL TO BE THE MAIN FACTOR BEHIND

THE CONTINUING TROUBLES IN SOUTHERN LEBANON. THE PRESIDENT, HE REPORTED, WAS WORKING WITH ALL FACTIONS AND URGING THEM TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION ISRAEL'S DESIGNS ON SOUTHERN LEBANON; ANY CHANGE IN THE EXISTING SITUATION IN THE SOUTH COULD LEAD TO FURTHER ISRAELI AGGRESSION AGAINST ARAB TERRITORY.

3. I TOLD DAUDI THAT OUR CURRENT IMPRESSION WAS THAT CHRISTIAN MILITIA LACKED CAPABILITY AT THIS TIME TO MOUNT ANY MAJOR OFFENSIVE OPERATION WITH THEIR OWN RESOURCES AND ADDED OUR VIEW THAT AGGRESSIVE ISRAELI ACTION ON THE BORDER APPEARED UNLIKELY IN VIEW OF PRIME MINISTER BEGIN'S FORTHCOMING VISIT TO WASHINGTON. HE TOOK NOTE OF THESE POINTS BUT REITERATED SYRIAN CONCERN REGARDING ISRAELI INTENTIONS.

4. REQUEST DEPARTMENT PASS CINCEUR FOR POLAD.  
PELLETREAU UNQTE  
VANCE

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DEMARCHE, INTERVENTION, PROVINCE, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 28-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Number:** 1977STATE150260  
**Document Source:** CORE  
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**Drafter:** J CASWELL  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
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**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
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**Reference:** 77 STATE 148797  
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**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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